

**From:** Anze Slosar  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 12/9/01 6:20pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am writing to you regarding the Microsoft Antitrust Settlement. The settlement in the present form is unsatisfactory and Microsoft can emerge from it stronger than ever. Microsoft's stronger monopoly is at the OS (operating system)'s side: through the clever marketing policies it has forced dealers to include only Microsoft OS with new computers - this has forced at least two (Beos and OS/2) commerical OSeS out of mainstream use. However, at the present, the most viable alternatives to Microsoft's OSeS come from not-for-profit organisations: these include BSD Unix and Linux OSeS, together with services that allow them to be used as Web servers (mostly apache, Apache Foundation - another not for profit organisation). Such non-commerical enterprises are completely unprotected under the current settlement and might be easily killed off by Microsoft. Quoting Robert X. Cringely:

"Section III(J)(2) contains some very strong language against not-for-profits. Specifically, the language says that it need not describe nor license API, Documentation, or Communications Protocols affecting authentication and authorization to companies that don't meet Microsoft's criteria as a business: "... (c) meets reasonable, objective standards established by Microsoft for certifying the authenticity and viability of its business, ..." "

Secondly: Microsoft proposed to settle the agreement by providing schools with computer (hardware and software) equipment, making his position stronger than ever. However, a major open source company - Red Hat Inc. - proposed to enhance this offer by letting the Microsoft provide the hardware, while they will provide an alternative OS solution. I personally think that this is by far the best solution: not only will the socially deprived areas get to use the computers, it will indeed make a big paradigm shift for those areas away from Microsoft into using alternative computing solutions. As people responsible for punishing Microsoft you must imagine a world in which not every one uses Microsoft Windows and Microsoft Word (I am afraid that judges willy-nilly take them as a defacto standard).

Thirdly:

Steve Satchell has applied for a position in a three-person cometeetee stationed at Microsoft and enforcing the settlement. Steve is a very experienced and educated person, who has been in the computer bussiness for a long time and understand the sprockets and wheels of it extremelly well. Moreover and more importantly, he is a deeply ethical and fair person and he is an ideal choice for that position. Therefore I

recommend him most warmly.

Yours sincerely,

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"I'm not going to fire a \$2 million missile at a \$10 empty tent and hit a camel in the butt." -George Bush, 9/2001